

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 25, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 2-8 and 18-21 are pending. Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 2 and 5 are amended. No new matter is added, and the claims are supported throughout the Specification.

Claims 2-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2 and 5 are amended to obviate this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and the indefiniteness rejection are therefore requested.

Claims 5-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,741,431 to Miller ("Miller") or Nishihara (JP 08-325276). These rejections are traversed.

Miller and Nishihara disclose a filler of silica gel, etc. which is surface treated with a carboxyalkenyl trihalosilane. However, the silica gel disclosed in Miller and Nishihara has at most three Si-O bonds (tri-functional siloxane). This is clear from the definitions thereof. Contrary to this, in the present invention, the silicon-containing polymer has four Si-O bonds (tetra-functional siloxane) in view of the definition thereof. Therefore, claims 5, 6 and 8 are patentably distinguishable from Miller and Nishihara.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 2-8 and 18-21, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 100021-00065**.

Respectfully submitted,

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